

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

April 7, 2009

(Rescheduled from April 6, 2009)

6:30 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School.

Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Shea Butcher and Richard Tretheway were not in attendance. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on March 16 and 26, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.

Reports

Sean McGarry reported that last month the Block Island Early Learning Center Board of Directors voted to amend its bylaws and removed the School Committee member from the board. Both the town, which provides funding, and the school, which supplies special education support, have concerns over this decision. It was requested that the superintendent call the Block Island Early Learning Center to voice the concerns and find out the reasons for the change.

William Padien reported that the Town adopted its FY2010 budget for presentation at the financial town meeting on May 4. However, the town chose not to fund the school's entire request, which leaves a shortfall of \$51,940. This shortfall will probably be addressed at the financial town meeting and need to be addressed at a future School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she had drafted a response to Commissioner McWalters' letter of March 13 regarding the plan for our student-athletes to meet the 180-day requirement. However, she requested that the letter be held until faculty members were given a chance to voice their concerns and to collaborate on the final plan so it can go forward in a way that would meet everyone's needs, especially since the plan will not go into effect until next school year. Mr. McGarry was pleased with the commissioner's willingness to work with us. Mr. Padien requested that the letter be sent out as soon as possible.

Mrs. Ryan gave a report from William Anderson, Director of Special Education, stating that the crisis intervention training was completed on April 1 with 10 staff members now certified. During this month, Dr. Anderson will facilitate differentiated instruction workshops for the faculty.

Mrs. Ryan reported that the seniors are putting final touches on their projects and everyone seems to be in good shape. A “dress rehearsal” will be held on April 29.

Mrs. Ryan informed the School Committee that she had spoken with Cindy Brown, Senior Finance Officer at RIDE, regarding the uniform chart of accounts. She will provide Nancy Cole the necessary assistance to set up Block Island School’s accounting system. Once the framework is completed, the next step would be to access the AccuFund software at town hall. The Agreement between the Town of New Shoreham’s Finance Department and the New Shoreham School Department’s Finance Department, which was drafted by Attorney Myers, was forwarded for School Committee review. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the Agreement between the Town of New Shoreham’s Finance Department and the New Shoreham School Department’s Finance Department was later withdrawn to give the Town Manager and Finance Director a chance to review it. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to table the discussion on the agreement between the school and town until later in the agenda and to withdraw the previous motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

New Business

The presentation by the third grade students on the pros and cons of school uniforms was postponed until next month.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve Laurel Littlefield’s request to home

school her son, Mason, from April 1-21, 2009, carried with a vote of 3-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request from the Recreation Department to waive the facility use fees for youth basketball, women's volleyball, and co-ed volleyball carried with a vote of 2-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to change the start time of the regular School Committee meetings from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. carried with a vote of 3-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to consent to the purchase of the Smart Board accessories in the amount of \$2625 carried with a vote of 3-0. The funds for this purchase will be taken from the Rural Education Grant. William Padien reminded the administration that all capital purchases must come before the School Committee.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the job description for the second assistant coach as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.

William Anderson submitted an evaluation tool that he developed based on the rubric formulated by the National Interstate Leadership and Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) and recommended by Rhode Island College, Graduate Program of Educational Leadership. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the evaluation tool for the Special

Education Director as presented carried with a vote of 3-0. Mr. Padien stated he would like to have this evaluation completed before May 1.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Chris O'Neill as the head coach for the junior high softball team pending receipt of the required coaching certification and a favorable outcome of the background check carried with a vote of 3-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Jessica Jalbert as the assistant coach for the junior high softball team pending receipt of the required coaching certification and a favorable outcome of the background check carried with a vote of 3-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to accept the resignation of Leslie Ryan as Superintendent effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 3-0. Mr. Padien stated that it has been a difficult year for the superintendent and he understands some of the reasons for her resignation. He hopes that the next superintendent will give his/her all as Mrs. Ryan has done during her tenure.

The School Committee reviewed a resolution to establish a superintendent search committee, which is similar in nature to those created for the past several searches. The search committee will include the School Committee chair or his designee, one person from the general public, Marsha Gutierrez, Davida Irving, one support staff

member, and two teachers. Mr. Padien would like to have the committee members appointed at the meeting scheduled for April 27. In addition, the committee reviewed the advertisement, which will be placed in the Providence Journal, Block Island Times, and Education Week. It was suggested that the advertisement be placed with SchoolSpring, which is a nationally recognized employment web site being used exclusively by many Rhode Island schools. The deadline for applications will be May 11.

Calendar of Events

The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2009. There will be an interim meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 27.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to address the Accufund agreement with the town carried with a vote of 3-0.

Town Manager Nancy Dodge and Finance Director Amy Land addressed each paragraph of the agreement with the School Committee with changes being made when agreed upon by both parties. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to authorize the chairman to sign the Agreement Between the Finance Department of the Town of New Shoreham and the Finance Department of the New Shoreham School Department as amended this evening after it has been reviewed and approved by the town was amended (Padien, McGarry) to include review and approval by the school's attorney carried with a vote of 3-0. The original motion was then approved with a vote of 3-0.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including a letter from the teachers' association questioning the educational rationale and motivation behind the decision to start school before Labor Day. The committee agreed to address the 2009-2010 calendar again at the meeting scheduled for April 27.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:26 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 3-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: May 18, 2009